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TINTWISTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's Report for the year ending December 31st, 1950.

To the Chairman and Members of
the District Council.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1950.

Population.

The figure for the mid-year population estimated by the Registrar General as being 1310 shows an increase of 48 persons over the previous twelve months. This figure must not be confused with that recently recorded as the provisional 1951 Census figure but is that used for estimating birth and death rates. The true census figure will not be revealed for some months but in all probability will not vary to any great extent from the provisional figure which has appeared in the Press.

Homes of the People.

The number of houses on the 31st December 1950 was 502, the average number of persons per house being 2.6. The general standard of house property is good, and, being of durable stone construction, dilapidation and the need for repairs of a major nature are seldom reported.

The new housing project at present being undertaken by the Council is worthy of especial note and should prove an additional benefit to a local community whose health even now would appear to be above the average. The absence of any degree of infectious disease including Pulmonary Tuberculosis and the longevity of many of the residents are evidence that such is the case.

Births.

The number of live births registered was 14 of which 7 were males and 7 females.

The Birth Rate was therefore 10.7 per thousand compared with a figure of 11.9 in 1949 and 15.8 for the country as a whole.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered was 18 of which 6 were males and 12 were females.

The Death Rate therefore was 13.7 per thousand, compared with 14.3 for 1949 and 11.6 for the country as a whole.

The causes of death were certified as under:-

Cancer.	1	Heart Disease.	9
Disease of Circulation.	3	Accidental.	1
Bronchitis.	1	Suicide.	1
Other.	2		

There were no deaths among infants under 12 months of age and 50% of all deaths due to natural causes were aged 75 years or over.

One death of a child under 5 years of age was due to shock subsequent upon burns accidentally caused.

Infectious Diseases.

No serious epidemic occurred, and the cases which were reported were of a mild degree. These were as under:-

Scarlet Fever.	2	(1 Admitted to Hospital)
Measles.	2	
Dysentery.	1	
Total.	5	

Tuberculosis.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the register at the 31st December is 3, all of which are non-pulmonary.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Care of Mothers and Babies.

The Clinic held in Christ Church School, Tintwistle, opened on 13th January 1949, was held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday each month. A doctor, a nurse and members of the Ladies' Voluntary Committee attended each session.

Attendances were as under:-

New Cases.	Total Attendances.	Seen by Doctor.
32	538	141

Provision is made for cases resident in the extreme limits of the area to be provided with free motor transport to attend the clinic once per month.

The continued interest taken by the Ladies' Voluntary Welfare Committee in providing valuable assistance such as the sale of infant foods, teas to the mothers, and clerical duties in connection with the clinic, is worthy of special note.

Nursing Services.

The part time services of a Health Visitor, whose duties also include the area covered by the Longdendale U.D.C. are available and include the visiting in the homes of all children under the age of five years, attendances at the Clinic, and the visiting of school children in need of medical supervision.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited normally every three months by this Nurse.

A District Midwife, resident in Hollingworth, has included in her district the area of the Tintwistle R.D.C. for confinements taking place in the homes. She attended at five home confinements during the year.

Cases of general sickness in the homes of the residents can, upon the request of the family doctors, receive nursing attention from a District Nurse resident in Hollingworth.

Domestic Help.

Home Help is available for cases of confinement, infirmity etc. three persons applying for this type of assistance during the year. Much difficulty has been experienced in obtaining suitable persons to undertake this work for payment on a part time basis or as a whole time servant of the County Council.

Ambulance Facilities.

Ambulance transport for the sick during 1950 was the responsibility of the Stalybridge Health Division of the Cheshire County Council.

As in the case of other areas and as a result of the operation of the National Health Act, the requests for ambulance transport have materially increased.

The number of patients carried during 1950 was 329 involving 244 journeys over 3874 miles.

The increased usage of the Service can be judged through the fact that for 1949, 77 journeys and for 1948 only 26 journeys were made.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Mr. H. Dane, part time Sanitary Inspector to your Council, has supplied me with the following particulars:-

Water Supply.

The source of supply is provided by the Manchester Coporation from the Woodhead catchment area. The water supply is adequate and of good quality.

Closet Accommodation.

The majority of premises are fitted with the water carriage system of drainage - the number being 450. There are only 4 premises where a pail type of closet is in existance.

Refuse.

Ashbins are the usual method for the collection of household aste, there being 500 bins in use, which are emptied weekly.

No ashpits or privy middens exist within the area.

Sanitary Inspections.

The number of Inspections made in accordance with the Sanitary Officers Regulations, 1935, were (approx.)	850
Statutory Notices served.	5
Informal Notices served.	40

Dairies and Milk Supply.

The number of farms at which milk is produced is 4, and bottled milk is supplied at 1 premises. All are inspected periodically, sampling for cleanliness and quality being under the control of the County Council.

Rodent Control.

Under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, regular surveys have been carried out - sewers, outfall works and the refuse tip being treated with poisons at least six times per year.

I am appreciative of the assistance rendered me by members of the Council and for information supplied by the other officials.

I remain,

Yours obediently,

F. W. C. BROWN.

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1951.